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Your Honor, 'I Do'

By Jon Van

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DES MOINES, Iowa—F.

Lee Bailey, the nationally known trial lawyer, flew to Iowa's capital city during the weekend to marry secretly a Canadian airline stewardess.

Bailey, and an entourage of about 35 friends and relatives from the Boston area, converged on the Des Moines municipal airport Saturday morning in three Lear jets. The group checked into a motel across the street from the airport for the private wedding ceremony and reception.

Bailey, 39, married Lynda Hart, a 25 year-old charter airline stewardess from

Montreal, Canada. It was her first marriage; his third. After a tour of the Iowa city Bailey and Miss Hart exchanged vows before Polk County District Judge Leo Oxberger, a long-time friend of Bailey's.

Another friend, Verne Lawyer, a Des Moines attorney, had arranged the ceremony for Bailey in order to avoid national publicity.

"He wanted it private, and that's what he got," the lawyer said. "We got away with it until today."

Records filled out Saturday and filed Monday at the county courthouse show that Bailey arranged for necessary blood tests through a

Massachusetts doctor. Lawyer handled legal documents through the county clerk's office, which is normally closed Saturdays.

Attending the wedding party in the white-on-white Johnny and Kay's Hyatt House was Iowa Gov. Robert Ray, who was Lawyer's legal partner before he was elected the state's chief executive.

Another guest was former Army Capt. Enest Medina, the Vietnam veteran whom Bailey successfully defended in the Army's Mylai case. Medina is now administrative vice president for a Menominee, Mich., helicopter company owned by Bailey.

After spending Saturday night at the Hyatt House, the wedding party flew out of Des Moines Sunday.

Normally, loquacious—he has faced court reprimands in New Jersey and Massachusetts for talking too much in public about his cases — Bailey was tight lipped Monday about his weekend in Iowa.

Reached at his office in Marshfield, Mass., Monday, Bailey said, "I went to Des Moines for private reasons. If we wanted publicity, we could have had it. I don't wish to say anything else."